

# The Witness of Peace      March 2024

Back nearly a quarter century ago (*can you believe it?*), as we approached a new millennium, a little piece was published in our local South Whidbey newspaper by a local author. She titled her little reflection “Mantra for the Millenium”. It struck me as such sage advice that I cut it out, and it lived on my refrigerator for many years. It finally got dusty and yellowed enough that I took it down, but by that time the phrases were etched in my heart. I share them with you during this Lenten season. I hope they help guide your way, as they have mine.

*Pastor Annette*

*Maintain peace of mind.  
Practice certainty of purpose.  
Surrender to surprises.  
Move at the pace of guidance.  
Ask for what you need.  
Love the folks in front of you.*

(Christina Baldwin, [www.peerspirit.com](http://www.peerspirit.com))



## ***Youth, Family, and Community News***

To begin, the Guatemala Team has been greatly overwhelmed by the continued support that we have received! Thank you to all who gave so generously the night of the Heart of Guatemala dinner. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves and made some wonderful memories.

*We will be flying out Thursday evening March 28<sup>th</sup> and returning on April 8<sup>th</sup>.* We look forward to representing Peace and the community of Silvana and being God's hands in the village of San Carlos Carreter, San Ramon. Larry, Jordy, Dave, Tammy, Taylor, Mary, Sam, Simon, Phoebe, Torunn, and Mary all ask for your continued prayers while we travel and share our talents building stoves.

March is sure to be filled with many opportunities for you to jump in and find something to do. The women will be having special guest Jenn Seiler speaking about her love of reading and sharing books that will inspire kids and adults to read. PLCW gathers on the first Wednesday of the month (6<sup>th</sup>) at 11:30 with a hosted lunch followed by devotions and guest speaker. If you would like to donate to the women's basket for the Silvana Fair Auction you can bring in some chocolate for their chocolate basket. They will be collecting through Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They also are making a beautiful quilt that will definitely be eye catching! The Circles continue to gather – Lydia on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 and Naomi on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the fireside room.

Looking to support the community? The Silvana Fair Auction is the 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 and Bingo at the Viking Hall is on the 10<sup>th</sup> supporting a local girl's fast pitch team.

The fun news is the VBS material has arrived, and we are very excited to get started with the planning. This year's theme is ***Restoration***, and we need your support to help make it a success. As usual, it will be the last week of June on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. We will once again be serving dinner and ending the night around the campfire. The next planning meeting will be **Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm**, before the Lenten service. All are welcome to come join this fun project.

Out to lunch bunch will be traveling to south Everett to Pasteur's on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking the bus and leaving from the church parking lot at 10:50. We have gone there for dinner and everyone absolutely enjoyed their dishes. Please send me a text so I can inform the restaurant of our numbers.

Out to dinner will be going to Fisherman Jack's in Everett. I've had a few folks suggest this place and gave it great reviews. I'm excited to try something new and a little different. We will be going on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> and meeting at the restaurant at 6pm. Please send me a text if you would like to go as I need to make reservations.

**Food Bank Item of the month is canned soup.**

**Go Green Tip:** COMPOST- watermelon rings, coffee grounds, eggshells, and other everyday left overs can help your garden grow. instead of throwing away food make a compost bin that will break this trash down into usable fertilizer. Whether you live in an apartment or have a large yard, you can compost in any space.

*-Mary J Fuentes-*

## *LENTEN WORSHIP*

### **MID-WEEK AT PEACE**

### *Fill Us With Your Love*

**Taize Prayer Around the Cross, 6:45 pm**

**March 6, 13, 20**

Following a soup supper at 6:00 pm, we will gather in the sanctuary for a service of reflective readings, simple chant-style songs, silence and honoring prayer intentions through candle lighting.

## **LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT**



### ***BLESSING BAGS***

Join with Naomi Circle in creating a new supply of blessing bags to share with our local community. Each week during Len we will focus on collecting a couple items. We assemble the bags just before Easter. Add some of the items below to your grocery list!

**Granola bars**

**Toothpaste**

**Plastic rain poncho**

**Socks**

**Combs**

**Small packs of Goldfish**

**Travel hand sanitizer**

**Chapstick**

**Nail files**

**Small Kleenex packs**

**Beef jerky**

**Sanitary wipes**

**Also, good items to bring:** gum, gloves, hand warmers, safety whistle, tuna (in small pouch style), plastic utensils, flashlight, dried fruit/fruit snacks, small packs of nuts, small bottles of hand lotion, pen/pencil, small notebook, small shampoos

*Our neighbors in need thank you!*



## From the Bishop

March 2024

During the cold snap in January, I realized that the hummingbird food had frozen again. I went outside to replace it and noticed a hummingbird just sitting, seemingly frozen, perched on one of the little prongs of the feeder. Now, usually the hummingbirds I feed are fierce. They swirl around my head demanding new syrup and for me to move out of their way. They exert a force that, if bigger, would be scary. But this one did nothing as I moved closer.

I stood there. Not sure what to do. Do I shoo it away? Do I simply hope it moves when I reach out? Do I come back later hoping this bird is still alive?

As in most things we do these days, I decided to research online. According to the website *Science*, hummingbirds may appear “frozen” on a feeder, but they're using torpor to conserve energy. This article urges one to not disturb them as this is a natural behavior and allows them to save their energy.

With this, I decided to wait until the hummingbird flew off before replacing the feeder with fresh syrup (which happened about a half hour later).

So why tell you this small story of hummingbirds and me? I think there is some overlap between energy and torpor and what this all might mean for us as church together.

While not a perfect analogy, sometimes we can act like hummingbirds swirling and swooping, using lots of energy to do things. Sometimes we think that if we aren't doing activities, or if other people aren't doing activities, then we are failing as a church. It reminds me of a pastor saying to me at an event for Rostered Ministers, “Bishop, I feel that I have to attend everything that is planned. But, may I ask, is everything planned necessary?”

Perhaps we use energy up when it is not necessary.

Perhaps, like the hummingbird, we also need a time of torpor. Perhaps we need a “time out” time or a reflection time or a meditative time or just a time to inhale and exhale without worrying about the next event or program or activity. As theologian Richard Rohr puts it when describing centering prayer, “Prayer is simply sitting in silence, open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations.”

Dear Beloveds in Christ, Lent is here. As we plan and attend the meaningful worship and fellowship that we all love during the season of Lent, I pray that in worship and in other ways you can find the space and openness to embrace the wonder of the Spirit.

For we can learn from hummingbirds – not that we are to eat one and a half to three times our body weight every day like a hummingbird – but instead, we are called to have a flow between busyness and stillness, action and reflection, hustling and torpor, acts and prayer.

I pray that as we follow Jesus, as we live in Jesus' love, as we contemplate his words and actions, we may do the same.

*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35*

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



### **Maundy Thursday, March 28th 6:00 pm Supper, 7:00 pm Service**

Supper will be a **potluck**, “**finger-food**”, **family style meal**, so take note of this suggested list of what to bring:

- Cooked, smoked or cured meats, cut into small chunks
- Dried fruits, like raisins, dates, apricots, figs
- Nuts, such as cashews, almonds
- Various cheeses, cut into small chunks
- Hummus, or other dips
- Pita bread, or other bread easily torn into serving-sized pieces
- Finger veggies, like carrots, radishes, cucumbers
- Olives of all kinds

After sharing in our meal, we will share in the Eucharistic meal and reflect on the commandment (*mandatum*) of Christ to love one another, as he demonstrated in washing the feet of his disciples.

### **Good Friday, March 29th**

We continue the tradition of celebrating a **joint Good Friday Stillaguamish cluster service**. We will offer both a daytime and an evening option.

**Noon, at Faith, Lakewood**

**7:00 pm, at Peace**

### **Easter Sunday, March 31st**

**7:00 am** worship in the **Little White Church on the Hill**

**7:30-9:30 am** *Easter Breakfast*, served in the Fellowship hall

**10:00 am** worship in the sanctuary of **Peace Lutheran**

This year’s Easter breakfast is brought to you by the Men of Peace. We appreciate them stepping up! Our usual breakfast crew will be in Guatemala serving something quite different this Easter morning. Please hold them in prayer as they’re out doing this important work.

♪♪ Happy Birthday To You ♪♪

March Birthdays

- 3 Michelle Love  
Percy Jacobs
- 9 Mary Fuentes  
*Lincoln Richards*  
*Tayden Richards*
- 13 Robin Backlund
- 19 Suzanne Mullin  
Debra Compton
- 20 Richelle Tripp
- 21 Pedro Gonzales
- 25 Lynn Olseene  
Simon Fuentes
- 29 Bob Sund

*\*youth are italicized*

**March Worship Assistants**  
**Thank you for serving!**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Counters</u>
<b>3</b>	Phoebe Fuentes Simon Fuentes	Simon Fuentes	Spencer Fuentes	Jolene Rod Larry Bean
<b>10</b>	Ashley Kombol Isaiah Kombol	Ashley Kombol	Wayne Erickson	Al & Judy Camp
<b>17</b>	Debra Compton Mary Fuentes	Patti Jones	Al Camp	Ralph & Gwen Dalseg
<b>24</b>	Char Tyler Kris Rinnert	Jordy Tyler	Kris, Al, Mindy, Karen F, Spencer,	Karen & Dennis Dicken
<b>31</b> <b>7:00 am</b> <b>Service</b>	Carol Maurstad Dennis Dicken	Karen Dicken	Karen Dicken	Jolene Rod & Larry Bean
<b>31</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Service</b>	Patti Jones Debra Compton	Ashley Kombol	Kris Rinnert	Jolene Rod & Larry Bean

**Out To Lunch Bunch**

March 14th Pasteur's in Everett. Bus leaves Peace at 10:50 am.

**Out To Dinner Group**

March 21st Fisherman Jack's in Everett. Meet at the restaurant at 6 pm.

**Peace Lutheran Church Women**

**Lydia Circle:** Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 pm

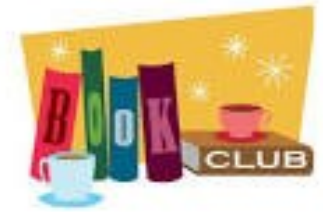
**PLCW:** Wednesday, March 6 at 11:30 am

**Naomi Circle:** Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 am



**Book Club! In March we will be meeting on March 26th at 2:00 pm at Robin Sather's home. This month's book selection is :**

*The Thursday Murder Club*  
by Richard Osman



*Church Library*

We have a few new titles tucked in the shelves of your church library. Please take some time to peruse. You just might discover, or perhaps, rediscover something new!

## **Stillaguamish Lay Cluster Coaching Update**

Northwest Washington Synod has arranged for the Lay Cluster to work with two coaches during the next few months.

Our first meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 2 at Camano Lutheran, 9am.** The Lay Cluster group decided to make it a breakfast meeting with yummy egg casserole, fruit, muffins and juice.

We are looking forward to working with Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo and Pastor Jade Yi!

**If you are interested in learning more about the Lay Cluster group, contact Jolene Rod, Karen Dicken or Kris Rinnert.**



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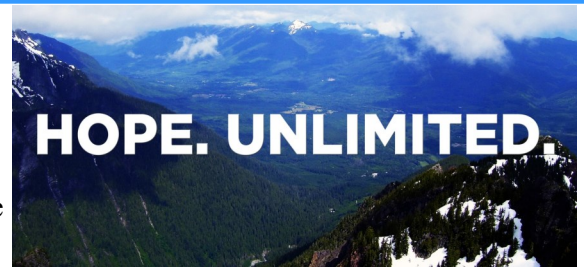
Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement:  
*“Called by Christ to offer help, hope,  
 and healing.”*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
*OTLB=Out to Lunch Bunch *OTDG=Out to Dinner Group *PLCW= Peace Lutheran Church Women					<b>1</b> AA Noon  Confirmation Retreat	<b>2</b> Confirmation Retreat
<b>3</b>  Sunday School 9:00  Worship 10:00	<b>4</b>  AA 10 am	<b>5</b>  AA Noon  Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	<b>6</b>  ALANON 10 am PLCW 11:30 am Soup @ 6 Prayer around the Cross @ 6:45	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  AA Noon	<b>9</b>  Men’s Breakfast 8 am  Silvana Fair Auction
<b>10</b>  Sunday School 9:00  Worship 10:00	<b>11</b>  AA 10 am  4H 6:30	<b>12</b>  AA Noon	<b>13</b>  Naomi 9:30 ALANON 10 VBS Planning 4:30 Soup @ 6 Prayer around the Cross @ 6:45	<b>14</b>  OTLB Bus leaves 10:50 am	<b>15</b>  AA Noon	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>  Sunday School 9:00  Worship 10:00	<b>18</b>  AA 10 am	<b>19</b>  AA Noon  Council 6:30 pm	<b>20</b>  ALANON 10 am Soup @ 6 Prayer around the Cross @ 6:45	<b>21</b>  4H Foods 6 PM  OTDG Fisherman Jack’s 6 pm	<b>22</b>  AA Noon	<b>23</b>  Men’s Breakfast 8 am
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>  Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	<b>25</b>  AA 10 am	<b>26</b>  AA Noon  Book Club 2 pm Robin Sather’s home.	<b>27</b>  ALANON 10 am  LWR Quilting 10-2	<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday Supper @ 6</b> <b>Worship @ 7</b>	<b>29</b> AA Noon <b>Cluster Good Friday Services Noon@ Faith, Peace @ 7 pm</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Easter</b>  7:00 am worship at LWCH  7:30-9:30 Breakfast at Peace  10:00 am Worship at Peace						



## March Mission of the Month:

In 1998, Ralph and LeAnn Fry, along with six friends, formed Hope Unlimited with the purpose of helping people in need of comfort, encouragement, and hope. Their first project was to come alongside couples who were needing to replenish the vitality in their relationships and marriages. Soon after moving to North Snohomish County, Ralph and LeAnn felt a need to actively support their community by putting Ralph's training as a fire and police chaplain to immediate use. In 2004, the leadership board of Hope Unlimited responded to the need for an emergency response chaplaincy. In 2005, Stanwood Camano Incident Support (SCIS) was established. Today, it has grown to include many area communities and is now known as Northwest Incident Support (NWIS). From 2014-2018, the mission of Hope Unlimited expanded to reach the growing demographic of single-parent families. A new outreach, Single Family Life, became a reality. Dozens of parents received encouragement and training to ensure a healthy family dynamic. In 2018, Hope Unlimited answered the call to help bring awareness and education for the prevention of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Today, the Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative partners with schools, first responder agencies, and community groups to help keep our kids and teens safe.

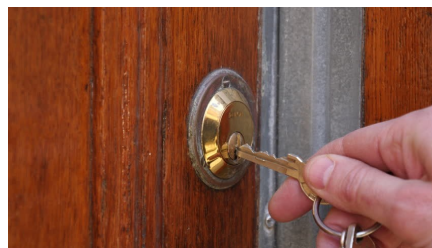


### **Hope Unlimited exists to bring HOPE through compassion.**

We set out to accomplish this mission by practically meeting the needs represented in our communities. Through Northwest Incident Support, we partner with first responders during crisis situations and provide resources for families during difficult circumstances. Through our Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative, we promote awareness, education, and prevention of modern-day slavery through teaching, training, and outreach.

For more information, Email: [info@hopeunl.org](mailto:info@hopeunl.org)

## TOO MANY KEYS!



There are many times when one of our staff is working alone in the building, and there have been some security concerns. Over the years there have been many keys to the building given out, including many that are not marked "Do Not Duplicate".

Your Church Council has decided to **re-key the church building in early April**. We will be limiting the total number of keys that are distributed. Please be aware that all folks who are in need of a key to the building will be asked to submit a request to check out a key, which will include a reason for the request. Look for more information and an update after Easter. Thank you!

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
**P.O. Box 100**  
**Silvana, WA 98287**

Contact us:  
360-652-8739  
office@plsilvana.org  
pastor@plsilvana.org

***Look Inside*** for information about church and community events and post the calendar on your wall so you don't miss a thing!